Victorian Freaks
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Published by The Ohio State University Press


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NADJA DURBACH, associate professor of history, University of Utah, researches the place of the body in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century British culture, particularly in relationship to gender, class, race, and ethnicity. She is the author of Bodily Matters: The Anti-Vaccination Movement in England, 1853–1907 (Duke University Press, 2005) and several articles that have appeared in Social History of Medicine, the Journal of British Studies, and Cultural and Social History. She is currently completing a book entitled Displaying Deformity: The Freak Show and Modern British Culture, 1847–1914.


MELISSA FREE, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is at work on a dissertation entitled “Elsewhere England: Late Colonial South Africa, British Identity, and the Authorial Informant,” which examines South African periodicals as well as work by Haggard, Schreiner, and Buchan. She has published pieces on Victorian literature and culture in Book History (2006) and Texas Studies in Literature and Language (2006).
MARThA StODDARD HOLMeS, associate professor of literature and writing studies, California State University San Marcos, researches the cultural history of the body from Victorian culture to the present. She is author of *Fictions of Affliction: Physical Disability in Victorian Culture* (University of Michigan Press, 2004) and coeditor of *The Teacher’s Body: Embodiment, Authority, and Identity in the Classroom* (SUNY Press, 2003). She is working on a book on disability and desire in Victorian fiction.


MEEGAN KENNEDy, assistant professor of English at Florida State University, studies Victorian medicine and science; theory and history of the British novel; fiction of empire; visual culture; and gender theory. She has published articles and reviews in Victorian literature and culture, Victorian studies, and literature and medicine and is currently revising a book manuscript entitled *Rewriting the Clinic: Vision and Representation in Victorian Medicine and the Novel*, which reads nineteenth-century British medical case histories against developments in the British novel.
HEATHER McHOLD, independent scholar, received a Ph.D. in history and a Graduate Certificate in Women’s and Gender Studies from Northwestern University in 2003. She researches the history of gender and medicine in Victorian culture with particular emphasis on deformity, the spectacular display of bodies, and contemporary discourse on imperial power. She is the author of “Freaks” in The Oxford Companion to the Body (Oxford University Press, 2001), edited by Colin Blakemore and Sheila Jennett.

TIMOTHY NEIL, University of Sheffield, studies Victorian and Edwardian popular culture, particularly early film, fairground, and circus. His current research concerns British migration to rural France, and he is editing a collection of papers on the social archaeology of arborglyphs and graffiti. He has published in Images, Representations and Heritage: Moving Beyond Modern Approaches to Archaeology (Springer, 2006), and The Lost World of Mitchell and Kenyon: Edwardian Britain on Film (British Film Institute, 2004).

CHRISTOPHER R. SMIT, assistant professor for the Communication Arts and Sciences, Calvin College, is the editor of Screening Disability: Essays on Cinema and Disability (University Press of America, 2001). His current book projects focus on disability theology and the disabled body in photography. Smit’s essays on disability, media, popular music, and culture can be found in Disability Studies Quarterly, Studies in Popular Culture, Journal of Popular Culture, and several edited collections.

REBECCA STERN, associate professor, University of South Carolina, is the author of Home Economics: Domestic Fraud in Victorian England (forthcoming from The Ohio State University Press [2008]). She has also begun work on two new book projects, one on spectacular Victorian bodies and a second on the odd performances of Victorian gerunds and participles. Her articles have appeared in Nineteenth-Century Literature, Victorian Poetry, ELH, and Nineteenth-Century Studies.

MARLENE TROMP, professor of English and women’s studies, Denison University, researches the “marginal” in Victorian culture, particularly séances, sensation, and freaks; she also studies the Titanic disaster. She is the author of Altered States: Sex, Drugs, and National Identity in Victorian Spiritualism (SUNY Press, 2006); The Private Rod: Marital Violence, Sensation, and the Law in Victorian Britain (University Press of Virginia,
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